



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

OVERALL 2012 ROW CROP OUTLOOK MUCH IMPROVED, DESPITE SUMMER DROUGHT

NASHVILLE, September 12, 2012 – Plentiful, welcome, rainfall finally arrived in August which greatly improved crop yield potential for soybeans and held steady the encouraging outlook for cotton and tobacco. Unfortunately, the August rains were too late to benefit Tennessee's number two cash crop, corn. Corn yields will likely be the worst in almost 20 years. State Director, Debra Kenerson noted, "Above normal rainfall in August, especially at the end of the month courtesy of the remnants of Isaac, was extremely beneficial in bringing Tennessee farmers out of a drought with most crops now having plenty of potential." In brief, a September 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 87 bushels per acre, down 44 bushels from last year's yield of 131 bushels; **Cotton**, 755 pounds per acre, down 41 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 31.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel per acre from 2011; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, up by 290 pounds per acre from last year.

OVERALL CORN YIELDS BETTER THAN EXPECTED, BUT STILL DISMAL

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 75.7 million bushels, down 21 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 87 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels per acre from last month's predictions, but down significantly from 131 bushels per acre in 2011. If realized, this would be the lowest yielding crop in almost twenty years. Farmers plan to harvest 870,000 acres for grain, 135,000 more acres than last year and the most in 50 years. Record hot temperatures during June and early July combined with a lack of rainfall during the crucial pollination period, ultimately impacting yields. As of early September, the corn crop development was at a pace two weeks ahead of normal with 85 percent of the state's corn crop having reached maturity. Corn harvest is moving ahead at the fastest rate on record with nearly half of the crop already harvested.

EXPECTED COTTON PRODUCTION HOLDING STEADY

Tennessee's cotton production is projected to be 590,000 bales, down 27 percent from last year's production of 813,000 bales. Cotton yields are forecast to average 755 pounds per acre, down 41 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 375,000 acres, down 115,000 acres from 2011. Tennessee's cotton appears good overall and has progressed in development slightly ahead of normal. Cotton is now opening and defoliation is coming soon. Most of the crop received the rain that was needed in mid-August and should finish out nicely. Growers have noted that "boll shed" during August was less than normal.

SOYBEAN YIELD OUTLOOK NOW PROMISING

Soybean production is expected to total 40.0 million bushels, about the same as last year. Soybean yields are projected at 31.0 bushels per acre, a decrease of 1 bushel per acre from 2011. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.29 million acres, up 40,000 from a year ago. August weather was favorable for soybeans. Temperatures were lower than normal and precipitation was well ahead all month. These two conditions greatly improved yield potential. The soybean crop is progressing about a week behind the five-year average pace. Harvest will begin soon according to early September reports. Currently, more than three-fourths of the soybean crop is rated fair or better.

(OVER)

A GOOD BURLEY CROP FOR A CHANGE

Burley production is expected to reach 30.4 million pounds, up 35 percent from 2011. The average state yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, surpassing last year's poor yielding crop by 290 pounds per acre. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 16,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres from 2011. Tobacco yield prospects have improved for dark tobacco and are as good as expected last month for burley. Most burley producers anticipate that the 2012 crop yield will exceed that of the past few years. The crop has been topped, sprayed and about a third is hanging in the barn. Sucker control was a challenge this season and there were a few reports of wind damage. Overall, the burley tobacco crop is progressing at the normal pace. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,000 pounds per acre, up 110 pounds from last year, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, up 80 pounds from 2011.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2012, WITH COMPARISONS

| Crop | Units | Harvested Acres | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | | 2011 | Indicated 2012 | 2011 | Indicated 2012 | 2011 | Indicated 2012 |
| | | Thousands | | Number of Units | | Thousands | |
| TENNESSEE | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 8,500 | 7,500 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 735 | 870 | 131.0 | 87.0 | 96,285 | 75,690 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 490 | 375 | 796 | 755 | 813 | 590 |
| Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa) | ton | 1,860 | 1,790 | 2.10 | 1.90 | 3,906 | 3,401 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 1,250 | 1,290 | 32.0 | 31.0 | 40,000 | 39,990 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 22.0 | 23.5 | 2,062 | 2,238 | 45,363 | 52,600 |
| Dark fire-cured | lb. | 6.9 | 6.5 | 2,890 | 3,000 | 19,941 | 19,500 |
| Burley | lb. | 14.0 | 16.0 | 1,610 | 1,900 | 22,540 | 30,400 |
| Dark air-cured | lb. | 1.1 | 1.0 | 2,620 | 2,700 | 2,882 | 2,700 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 310 | 350 | 69.0 | 66.0 | 21,390 | 23,100 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 9,420,000 | 8,065,700 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 83,981 | 87,361 | 147.2 | 122.8 | 12,358,412 | 10,727,364 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 9,460.9 | 10,443.4 | 790 | 786 | 15,573.2 | 17,109.0 |
| Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa) | ton | 36,420 | 38,762 | 1.81 | 1.69 | 65,812 | 65,448 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 73,636 | 74,635 | 41.5 | 35.3 | 3,056,032 | 2,634,310 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 325.04 | 336.28 | 1,841 | 2,277 | 598,320 | 765,807 |
| Dark fire-cured | lb. | 16.40 | 15.88 | 3,154 | 3,200 | 51,721 | 50,822 |
| Burley | lb. | 88.90 | 101.10 | 1,938 | 1,924 | 172,265 | 194,525 |
| Dark air-cured | lb. | 5.50 | 5.20 | 2,924 | 2,862 | 16,082 | 14,880 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 32,314 | 35,023 | 46.2 | 48.0 | 1,493,677 | 1,682,726 |

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov